

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION

**HON. BILL CASSIDY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Magnolia Mound Plantation located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of May 10th, 2010 the Plantation has achieved national accreditation by the American Association of Museums, joining an impressive and elite group of only 778 institutions around the country to achieve this distinguished accreditation.

Magnolia Mound Plantation has successfully demonstrated that it meets the high standards established by the accreditation program and the museum field. It has done this through its completion of a rigorous process of self study and reviews by a visiting committee of its peers and the Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process certifies a museum's commitment to excellence and professional standards of operation.

Located in Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, Magnolia Mound Plantation is a rare survivor of architecture influenced by early settlers from France and the West Indies. This landmark is unique in southern Louisiana not simply because of its age, quality of restoration, or outstanding collections, but because it is still a vital part of the community. Through educational programs, workshops, lectures, festivals, and other special events, Magnolia Mound's mission is to illustrate and interpret the lifestyle of the French Creoles who formed the fascinating culture which still influences and pervades life in southern Louisiana today. With this accreditation, I can only hope that Magnolia Mound Plantation will continue to be an asset to our community.

### A GENOCIDE SURVIVOR STORY: HAROUTIOUN ANDONIAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian

family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories:

(Submitted by Nareg Krumian, the grandson of Haroutioun Andonian)

"Haroutioun Andonian was born in Gurun, Turkey in 1909 and grew up with his father, mother, grandmother and younger sister. At the age of 6, his father and mother were separated from him, his sister and his grandmother. His father was arrested by Turkish soldiers and his mother was taken away. He still remembers a line of people bound to each other at their wrists and being marched away from his village. Among them was Haroutioun's father, whom he never saw afterwards. He never saw his mother again either. He was rounded up with his sister, grandmother and other neighbors by another group of soldiers and taken away to various cities and villages. By the time they reached Aintab (presently called Gaziantep), his sister and grandmother were too weak from hunger and the forced marches that they lost their lives as well.

"In Aintab, various Armenian, American and European aid workers tried to contain the situation of children left without family. The orphans were disbursed to various Armenian and Turkish homes throughout the villages of Aintab. Haroutioun remembers the name of Balaban Khoja, a teacher, who was instrumental in placing the orphans with families who wanted children. After going through several homes, Haroutioun lived with a lady who would later become his mother-in-law.

"Around the time he was 10 years old, American and Danish missionaries began taking the children to orphanages in Lebanon and the U.S. Haroutioun was sent to Jbeil, a city in northern Lebanon, where he stayed until around 1925 when he was sent to France through the aid of the American charity Near East Relief. For a few years, he worked on a farm and later went to Paris to work at the Renault factory where he was responsible for chroming metal components.

"In the early 1930s, Haroutioun found out that the lady who had cared for him last as a child in Aintab had herself been forced to evacuate her village with her family and was living in Aleppo, Syria. He went to Syria, began working in various fields such as trading in cloth and yarn, and managing Turkish baths that were still prevalent during that period. He also married his host mother's daughter, Marie, with whom he had one daughter, Alice.

"Haroutioun and Marie left Syria for the last time in 1987 and came to Los Angeles to join their daughter and her family. In 2002, he became a U.S. citizen and shared a letter with the judge presiding over the procedure that he had kept for over 70 years. The letter was from the Near East Relief thanking Haroutioun for paying back funds he had borrowed during his journey to France. Though not obligated to do so, Haroutioun

had felt that re-paying into the fund would allow other unfortunate people with the opportunity to rebuild their lives. To this day, he maintains that the government of Turkey and its soldiers took away his ability to know what it was to have a family but that today, living in the United States at the age of 101 amid his two grandchildren and six great grandchildren, he has become a king who has everything."

### TRIBUTE TO VIOLA AND SYLVAN MEILING

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Viola and Sylvan Meiling of Forest City who will be receiving the USDA Rural Development's Housing Manager of the Year Award. The couple was recently chosen by the USDA to receive this award for their five outstanding years of performance as managers of Forest City's Community Plaza Apartments.

Community Plaza was built in 1986 as a 24 unit family property. The building was financed through the USDA's Rural Rental Housing Section 515 Direct Loan Program, which provides affordable housing to moderate, low and very low income households. Shortly after its construction, the complex was experiencing high vacancy rates and was in generally poor, rapidly deteriorating physical condition. Viola and Sylvan Meiling were hired under the current owner in 2003. The semi-retired couple, with no previous property management experience, immediately went to work to improve the lives of the property's occupants. The Meilings have earned the respect of residents through their commitment to provide the community with a clean, safe and well maintained environment for families in need of affordable housing.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as Viola and Sylvan Meiling must be recognized and applauded for their sincere dedication to improving and maintaining a healthy community and for their positive impact on the lives of others. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

### EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2010*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GRIJALVA and the hardworking staff on the Subcommittee on National Parks for getting this legislation to the floor today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.